

has been a great cornerstone for this world and for any country that wants to have a republic, a democracy, and a people-driven form of government and to really feel that coat of liberty wrapped around them. I think our Constitution is that.

So I think it is time for us not only to make the citizens aware, but to make this whole world aware of what has been going on and what we are going to do to stop it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the energy and tensions of the second session gather, may there be peace among the Members of the people's House. Grant that all might be confident in the mission they have been given and buoyed by the spirit of our ancestors who built our Republic through many trials and contentious debates. May all strive with noble sincerity for the betterment of our Nation.

Many centuries ago, You blessed Abraham for his welcome to strangers by the oaks of Mamre. Bless this Chamber this day with the same spirit of hospitality so that all Americans might know that, in the people's House, all voices are respected, even those with whom there is disagreement.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SPYING ON CONGRESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week The Wall Street Journal reported that the National Security Agency, the NSA, is actively spying on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, one of our Nation's closest allies. This revelation comes just 2 years after the President's announcement that the United States would cease spying on our allies.

The Journal wrote: "Officials said Obama insisted that keeping tabs on Netanyahu served a 'compelling national security purpose.'"

Specifically, the President sought to learn about President Netanyahu's opposition to the dangerous Iranian nuclear deal. In so doing, the NSA also intercepted personal, direct communication between Members of Congress, the Prime Minister, and his staff.

An editorial by The Post and Courier—republished in The Hill this week—raised important questions about the legality of the NSA's sharing private conversations with the White House and not discarding or getting judicial permission. Regrettably, this is another example of the President's disregard for our Constitution by spying on Congress, corrupting the NSA.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Staff Sergeant Matthew McClintock, an American hero.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUGLAS WILSON WALKER

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Doug Walker, who passed away on December 31 on Granite Mountain, near Snoqualmie Pass.

It is this wild, rugged landscape that lured Doug to Washington State and that stoked his creativity, energy, and passions for more than four decades.

A gifted mathematician with an insatiable fondness for climbing, he estab-

lished strong roots in the community. The impact he, along with his wife, Maggie, had on our community and on the many charitable causes to which he gave his time and wisdom is unparalleled.

A true champion for conservation, he cared deeply about protecting the North Cascades' most treasured lands, but his greatest passion was in broadening the constituency for conservation. He worked tirelessly to ensure that all people, especially youth and those in underserved communities, could access the outdoors.

For his incredible spirit and generosity, Doug will be remembered and missed by so many whose lives he touched. His legacy of inspiring others to experience and protect the outdoors lives on.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON GUN CONTROL

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the proposed executive assault—I mean action—on our Second Amendment rights. The President has yet again overstepped, has fired off another round, and has taken dead aim at the Second Amendment. It is time Congress takes dead aim at his lawlessness.

We have three branches of government for a reason, and one branch cannot continue to unilaterally act. It is tyrannical, and it erodes the foundation of this great Nation: our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, it is very curious to me that the President, who doesn't want his background checked into—his birth certificate, his school records, or his college grades—wants an anti-Second Amendment intrusion into actual Americans' backgrounds.

When is this administration going to realize that denying Americans their constitutional right to carry won't prevent bad people from doing bad things? It simply ensures criminals a safe path to crime.

That is how I see it. Lord help us last over these next 12 months.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO IMPORT HIGHLY ENRICHED LIQUID NUCLEAR WASTE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in 2014, the Department of Energy announced plans to import highly enriched liquid nuclear waste into the country via the busiest northern border crossing and through a major metropolitan area.

This route was approved 20 years ago, pursuant to a pre-9/11 analysis, and for

a less dangerous type of nuclear waste. Yet, the Department has refused to undertake a contemporary environmental review or threat assessment.

In response, this House passed legislation by a vote of 416-0, requiring a threat assessment of a potential terror attack on such cargo. Yet, the Department of Energy announced that it intends to ignore the clear will of this House and authorize 150 truck shipments this year without conducting the threat assessment this House demanded.

Mr. Speaker, this route was a bad idea when it was first approved 20 years ago. Disregarding the terror threat, which has increased since then, is dangerously negligent, and we will not stand by while our communities are at risk.

CONGRATULATING BEIGER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ON WINNING 2015 INDIANA FIRST LEGO LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the team from Beiger Elementary School in Mishawaka, Indiana, for winning the 2015 FIRST LEGO League State Championship.

The Beiger Bots is a team of students who was judged in three areas: a theme-based project, a robot competition, and an evaluation of core values, like teamwork.

The project portion challenged the group to reduce, reuse, or recycle garbage. These students visited a local landfill and discovered that Styrofoam cutouts cannot be recycled. They brainstormed new uses for them, ultimately deciding to repurpose them as a folding breakfast tray.

After conquering Indiana, the Beiger Bots will now emerge in April at the world competition in St. Louis, the FIRST LEGO League World Festival.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Beiger Bots on their big win, and I wish them all the luck in St. Louis.

I also want to thank the parents, the coaches, the teachers, the principals, and all of the community that supported them for this big win.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the names of these students and coaches.

NAMES OF STUDENTS ON BEIGER BOTS

Jonas Knorr
Ana DeVries
Lilly Wilson
Illiana Vanlue
Jacob Stanton
David Sharp
Elizabeth Newland-Ball
Ben Pamachena
Max Ford
Briella Buchmann

NAMES OF COACHES OF BEIGER BOTS

Robert Pamachena
JoAnn Pamachena
Sarah Knorr
Maria DeVries

IN HONOR OF GARY LOCKE

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary Locke, a man who has brought pride and joy to my community for more than three decades as the director of the Riverside Community College's marching band.

When Gary was hired to direct the program in 1984, the school had no drums, no uniforms, and just 16 kids who showed up to camp that first summer.

Thirty-two years later, the Marching Tigers are a world-renowned marching band that has represented Riverside proudly in blockbuster movies, in television shows, and at prestigious venues around the world.

Last week Gary and his wife, Sheila, led the band for the final time when they performed "Bon Voyage" at the New Year's Day parade in Paris.

Congratulations, Gary, on your retirement. Thank you for inspiring your students and for invigorating our community throughout your incredible career.

TITUS MOUNTAIN

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, last year my district was the home of a manhunt that captured the attention of the entire Nation.

For almost a month, local, State, and Federal law enforcement agents and corrections officers made Franklin County, New York, their home as they searched for two killers who had escaped from the Clinton Correctional Facility.

Titus Mountain is a family ski area in the Adirondacks that became a part of law enforcement history as the main staging area for this intensive manhunt. I visited this past August and saw firsthand the facilities that were provided to these law enforcement agents by the Monette family.

This weekend, Titus Mountain is hosting a special event for the brave men and women who were involved in the search for these killers. It is to say thank you for their help in protecting our community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank these law enforcement agents and corrections officers who risked their safety to protect the families in our community and to thank Titus Mountain for hosting this event.

SOUTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COALITION

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight some progress being made to improve health care.

Right now, in my district in Pierce County, Washington, we have a startling shortage of beds for folks who are suffering from mental illness. It is a problem. It has led to overcrowded jails, it has led to people who are in severe mental crisis ending up in emergency rooms, it has led to people not getting the treatment that they need, and it has led to there being desperate families.

Folks in our region have decided to do something about it. Together with the two largest healthcare providers, our community has formed the South Sound Behavioral Health Coalition, which is comprised of healthcare experts, social service providers, local elected officials, law enforcement, business, labor, and faith leaders. We have come together with a plan to build a new facility that includes 120 beds and that bolsters local behavioral health care.

It is an extraordinary contrast to the action this week in this body in which the House voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 62nd time. Leaders shouldn't be stripping away care. They should be coming together. They should take a page from my community, where folks are coming together and are moving forward together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM WALLACE SPRAGUE, JR.

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay respect to William Wallace Sprague, Jr., who peacefully passed away last week at the age of 89.

Mr. Sprague was born on November 11, 1926. He served 2 years in the United States Navy during World War II, and he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from MIT and Yale in 1950.

From 1972 to 1994, he was chairman of the board and the CEO of Savannah Foods and Industries, which was the maker of Dixie Crystals sugar. Under his leadership, Savannah Foods grew from a small regional sugar refinery to a major national sugar company and a Fortune 500 member. In fact, from 1980 to 1990, Savannah Foods was number two in total returns to shareholders with a total return of 4,862 percent.

Over the years, he also served as the director of several national and international associations. In 1999, he was inducted into the Georgia Southern University's Business Hall of Fame.

He was very involved in the Savannah community, serving as director, trustee, or president for numerous community organizations, and he also worked to improve the lives of people in the community in which he lived.

His passion for life, his sense of humor, and his enthusiasm for making Savannah, Georgia, a better place will truly be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.